

# County of Los Angeles

“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Services”

## Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI)

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# Los Angeles County Homeless Information

- Homeless Population Estimates
  - 2005 Homeless Census: 82,291
  - Not including the Cities of Long Beach, Glendale and Pasadena: an additional 6,054 in these cities
  - City of Los Angeles: 48,103
  - Cities other than LA, Long Beach, Glendale and Pasadena: 26,764
  - Unincorporated Areas: 7,424
  - Total 88,345

# Los Angeles County Homeless Information

- Homeless Population Characteristics
  - Chronic Homeless: 34,512
    - HUD definition: Unaccompanied individual with disabling condition, continually homeless for a year or more, or experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness within past 3 years.
  - Homeless Families: 19,882
    - Defined as: (1) Minor parents with children); (2) one or more adults with legal custody of minor children); (3) a couple in which one person is pregnant; (4) grandparents or others who are legal guardians with children) present; and (5) multi-generational families with grandparents, parents (adult child) and minor children.
  - Homeless Population By Service Planning Area (SPA)/ American Indian Children's Council (AICC):

SPA 1: 3,544	SPA 4: 20,023	SPA 7: 7,178
SPA 2: 11,275	SPA 5: 6,860	SPA 8: 7,369
SPA 3: 9,254	SPA 6: 16,787	AICC: N/A

# Board of Supervisors' Actions

- Year-Round Shelter Funding
- Discharge
- Zero Tolerance (Skid Row)
- LAHSA Review
- Increased Funding for Year-Round Shelters
- Conceptual Approval of Comprehensive Homeless Prevention Initiative

# County Departments Serving the Homeless

- **Department of Public Social Services**
  - Provides temporary financial assistance and employment services to low-income County residents and determines eligibility for free or low-cost health care programs and services to families and children
- **Department of Children and Family Services**
  - Ensure children grow up safe, physically and emotionally healthy, educated, and in permanent homes...connected to family, friends, schools and neighborhoods
- **Department of Health Services**
  - Prevent disease, promote health, and provide personal health services [which are] critical for the medically indigent, working poor, and those without access to health care
- **Department of Mental Health**
  - Focus on “making the community better” provides clinically competent, culturally sensitive, and linguistically appropriate services tailored to meet individual’s goals and achieve independence
- **Sheriff**
  - Provides law enforcement services to 40 contract cities, 90 unincorporated communities, nine community colleges, the MTA and 47 Superior Courts
- **Community Development Commission**
  - Administers the County’s housing and community development programs

# Homeless Prevention Initiative

- Homeless and Housing Program Fund
- Stabilization Centers
- Homeless Court
- Prototype Court
- Homeless Family Access Center
- Housing Locators
- Housing Data Base
- General Relief Housing Subsidies & Case Management
- Expand DPSS Assistance Outreach and Application Intake at County Jails and Hospitals
- Homeless/Housing Coordinator

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE  
COUNTY GENERAL FUND PROJECTION**

ATTACHMENT I  
EXHIBIT A

RECOMMENDATION	ESTIMATED COST		
	TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE	COUNTY GENERAL FUND
<b><u>ONE-TIME FUNDING</u></b>			
Create a Countywide Homeless and Housing Program (HHP)	\$80,000,000		\$80,000,000
<b><u>ONGOING FUNDING</u></b>			
Create five 24-hour, multi-disciplinary/interdepartmental Stabilization Centers	\$7,125,000		\$7,125,000
Create a multi-disciplinary/interdepartmental Homeless Family Access Center (HFAC) for Skid Row Families	\$1,400,000		\$1,400,000
Create a Homeless Court Program	\$379,000		\$379,000
Provide Financial Support for a Prototype Court (PC)	\$200,000		\$200,000
Housing Locators	\$400,000		\$400,000
(DMH)	\$923,000	\$923,000	
(CalWORKs)	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	
Create a Housing Database	\$382,000	\$180,000	\$202,000
DPSS General Relief (GR) Housing Subsidy and Case Management Program Pilot	\$4,052,000		\$4,052,000
DPSS Applications at County Jails Pilot	\$1,097,000		\$1,097,000
DPSS Applications at County Medical Centers Pilot	\$588,000		\$588,000
Hire a Homeless and Service Enriched Housing Initiatives Coordinator	\$148,000		\$148,000
<b>ONGOING FUNDING SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,694,000</b>	<b>\$4,103,000</b>	<b>\$15,591,000</b>
<b>*TOTAL ONE-TIME AND ONGOING</b>	<b>\$99,694,000</b>	<b>\$4,103,000</b>	<b>\$95,591,000</b>

\*Total estimated cost as of March 16, 2006

4/5/2006

# Homeless and Housing Program Fund

- A fund to support housing for the homeless and other special needs populations
- New budget unit within the County General Fund
- \$80 million in one-time funding in FY 2006-07
- Leverage with other housing funding opportunities:
  - Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Program and Chafee Independent Living Program
  - Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63)
  - Governor's Homeless Initiative
  - City of Industry Redevelopment Housing Set-Aside Funds
  - City of Los Angeles Homeless Trust Fund and Redevelopment Funds
  - SB 1024 (Perata Bill) Infrastructure Bond - some funds will be dedicated to supporting homeless/housing continuum)
- Purpose:
  - Finance Housing Development and Related Operational Costs
  - Fund Supportive Services: Job Training, Domestic Violence, Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation, Child Care
  - Provide Rental Subsidies



# Stabilization Centers

- Initially 5 will be implemented
- Geographically dispersed
- **Expand** existing HUD and/or LAHSA funded Regional Homeless Access Centers
- 40 short-term beds each: 30 on site and 10 at a community partner facility for residential drug treatment
- 24/7 operation
- County staff teams from DPSS, DMH, and DHS
- Used by law enforcement as a place to take homeless persons arrested for minor offenses related to homelessness
- Also a location for homeless persons discharged from County Jails and Hospitals
- Purpose: temporary shelter, triage of service needs, connect with more permanent **supportive** housing

# Homeless Court

- Purpose: quickly divert homeless non-violent offenders with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues and frequent contact with criminal justice system
- Diversion into appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Held monthly, possibly rotating at Stabilization Centers
- Court will resolve outstanding tickets, warrants and fines for homeless defendants that have successfully participated in rehabilitative service program for 90 days
- Examples of offences eligible for dismissal: Metro fare evasion, jaywalking, traffic violations, low-grade misdemeanors such as urinating in public

# Prototype Court

- New problem solving court being developed by Superior Court, District Attorney, and DMH
- Hybrid between a Drug Court, which handles felony drug crimes, and Mental Health Court which deals with misdemeanor offender who has serious mental illness
- The Prototype Court will initially be limited to one Superior Court judge who will handle felony cases in which the offender has co-occurring mental illness and drug dependence
- Prototype Court will “sentence” offenders to residential treatment
- Homeless Prevention Initiative provides some administrative funding; major funding from MHSA

# Homeless Family Access Center

- Located in Skid Row area of Los Angeles
- Serve homeless families: assess service needs and connect with services and housing outside of Skid Row
- Include drop-in, conference type child care so that children are supervised while parents receive service assessment and connection information
- Will be staffed by the County departments of DPSS, DCFS, DHS, and DMH
- Private partners will be contracted with for family outreach and child care services

# Housing Locators

- Initially two departments will provide housing locator services:
  - DMH: two County staff housing locator positions per SPA who will assist mentally ill clients – total of 18 housing locators
  - DPSS: Contract with private partners to provide housing locator services for CalWORKs homeless families; DPSS' contract will allow other HPI County departments to purchase locator services
- \$400,000 in General Fund to fund housing locator services through the DPSS contract for homeless persons not qualifying for DMH and/or DPSS housing locator services
- Role of housing locators: Utilize the housing data base to
  - Develop network of landlords willing to take Section 8 and other tenants receiving rental subsidies
  - Locate and maintain affordable housing with supportive services as needed by the clients
  - Link to credit counseling services
  - Educate clients on tenants rights and responsibilities
  - Assist with rental agreements and move-in

# Housing Database

- A Countywide, geographic-based database
- Populated with real-time listing of:
  - Completed affordable housing developments
  - Market rate rental housing
  - Listing of Section 8 landlords
  - Location of supportive service providers so that matches of housing and supportive services can be made
  - Information on available emergency shelter beds
- Database works in concert with toll-free call center for landlords and tenants to respectively list properties and housing needs
- Provided through a consultant who will host and maintain the database
- A tool for Housing Locators and others working with the homeless population

# General Relief Housing Subsidy & Case Management Pilot Program

- To serve 900 homeless General Relief (GR) participants: single individuals
- Provide a rental subsidy of \$300/month maximum per participant
- Participant must also devote \$136 of \$221 GR grant to housing for a total rental amount of \$436/month
- Target homeless GR participants who are either seeking work, SSI benefits or are chronically homeless
- Case management of the participants will be provided by DPSS
- DPSS housing locators will also work with this program's participant base
- Goal is to secure jobs and/or other income sources for the participants while they are receiving GR benefits so they can transition to other forms of support

# DPSS Assistance/Outreach and Application Intake at County Jails and Hospitals

- Expand on existing program wherein DPSS takes SSI applications at Twin Towers Correctional Facility
- Expand to Men's Central Jail
- Expand to four County Medical Centers
- Expand to include other benefit program applications: CalWORKs, GR, Food Stamps and Medi-Cal
- Purpose: Ensure that discharged persons have benefits that will enable them to secure/maintain housing and other services



# Homeless/Housing Coordinator

- Located in the Chief Administrative Office, Service Integration Branch
- Work with County Special Needs Housing Alliance to **coordinate implementation** of the Homeless Prevention Initiative
- Coordinate services and programs with other cities and other agencies addressing homeless issues
- Monitor, analyze and develop legislative and grant proposals for Board consideration

# HPI Supplemental Recommendations

- Sheriff
  - Connect inmates who are eligible former foster youth and under the age of 21 with ILP services through DCFS
  - Create mini-career centers at County jails/Pitchess Detention Center to address high unemployment among inmates
  - Expand transportation for discharged inmates to housing and community based supportive service centers
- DHS
  - Enhanced training of DHS social workers and other healthcare workers in assessment, treatment planning and community resources available to meet the special needs of the homeless

# HPI Supplemental Recommendations Continued

- DMH
  - Develop two safe havens with 25 beds each to provide permanent, non-traditional housing and support services to the chronic mentally ill homeless
  - Add two patient rights staff to serve Twin Towers and the Women's jail to protect rights and enhance service linkages for mentally ill, homeless inmates
  - Connect 450 mentally ill County jail inmates with Full Service Partnerships upon release
  - Increase staff at the County jails to ensure inmates with mental illness are linked to appropriate services upon release
  - Residential and Bridging Services: Establish a staff unit in DMH which will be responsible for ensuring that persons with mental health issues discharged from institutional settings are linked to appropriate levels/types of mental health/supportive services including residential, substance abuse and other specialized programs.
  - Implement a 24/7 Alternate Crisis Services/Wellness Center in Skid Row at the Downtown Mental Health Center to provide crisis mental health intervention for homeless in Skid Row
  - Add two staff dedicated to managing the administrative, fiscal and clinical utilization of DMH's 1200 acute and residential mental health beds
  - Provide \$11.6 million in one-time funding for housing and related operational and supportive services for the mentally ill including the homeless mentally ill

# HPI Supplemental Recommendations Continued

- DPSS
  - Expand collaborative efforts to connect families and individuals exiting other County systems to DPSS benefit programs, i.e. Food Stamps, CalWORKs, GR and/or Medi-Cal
- DCFS
  - Increase the number of Transitional Housing Program (THP) beds by 50
  - Through the Emancipation Program Partnership, identify potential enhancements to the THP
  - Provide \$5,000 in ILP to fund a pilot program to purchase upper end hotel/motel vouchers for foster youth aging out of the DCFS system
  - Facilitate the reintegration of foster youth into communities through alliances with CBOs and landlords capable of providing permanent supportive housing
- Cross-Departmental
  - Implement departmentally customized “discharge standards/guidelines”
  - Develop a discharge risk-assessment form for all departments that house clients
  - Create web based database to track services received by discharged persons
  - Develop an educational/social service initiative for youth aging out of County services

# HPI Supplemental Recommendations Continued

- Skid Row Family Diversion Plan
  - Child safety is the first priority
  - DPSS/DCFS Team at the Union Rescue Mission
  - Other participating departments: DMH, DHS, LAHSA
  - Awaiting approval to locate at Midnight Mission and Weingart Access Center
  - Assess family needs and eligibility for housing and supportive services; enroll in services utilizing a uniform questionnaire and service referral form
  - Utilizing a single Homeless Families Data Base that includes family information, housing situation, services provided
  - Goal is to move families out of Skid Row into permanent supportive housing depending on needs
  - Will be complemented with the Homeless Families Access Center

# Homeless Prevention Initiative Implementation and Evaluation

- CAO to coordinate with Board offices, County departments, other public agencies, and private sector partners to prepare detailed implementation plans for the 11 key recommendations
- Detailed implementation plans to include *Performance Counts!* framework to measure how well the HPI programs and services are meeting intended result to reduce the County's homeless population
- *Performance Counts!* includes:
  - Program Result Statements
  - Performance Indicators
  - Operational Measures